

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 MC-01 ACDA-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 L-01 SAJ-01 EB-04 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

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R 061310Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8944

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9452

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, UK

SUBJ: REPORTED BRITISH ARMS DEALS WITH IRAN

REF: STATE 242869 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN AND BRITISH EMBASSY ON DAILY EXPRESS REPORT SUMMARIZED REFTEL.

2. TOUFANIAN SAID THAT IRANIANS WERE TALKING WITH BRITISH ABOUT CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR AMMUNITION PLANT TO BE LOCATED IN AN ARM-AMENTS COMPLEX PLANNED FOR ISFAHAN. COMPLEX WOULD INCLUDE A SOPH-ISTICATED MACHINE SHOP WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY PRODUCE IRANIAN "LION" TANKS, A MODIFICATION OF THE CHIEFTAIN TANK. BRITISH WOULD ALSO ASSIST WITH A TANK TRACK FACTORY WHICH, AS WE HAVE REPORTED, WAS ORIGINALLY SLATED FOR A GERMAN FIRM. TOUFANIAN SAID GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR FACTORY WAS TOO EXPENSIVE. BRITISH EMBOFF ACKNOW-LEDGED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE BEING HELD WITH IRANIANS RE ITEMS IN PARA 1 REFTEL. HOWEVER, NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE. BRITS HAD PRESENTED AN OVERALL PLAN FOR STAGED DEVELOPMENT AT AN IRANIAN ORDINANCE INDUSTRY. PERHAPS DISCUSSIONS OF THAT PLAN WERE SEED OF DAILY EXPRESS STORY.

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3. TOUFANIAN SAID THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO REPORT OF IRANIAN/BRITISH COOPERATION IN SHIP MANUFACTURE. EMBOFF SAID THAT IRANIANS HAD VAGUELY TALKED ABOUT CO-PRODUCTION OF NAVAL VESSELS, BUT NO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BRITS WERE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN DEVELOPMENT OF IRANIAN NAVAL FACILITIES, E.G., HARBORS AND SHIPYARDS.

4. EMBOFF SAID THAT ANY CONTRACTS THAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED WITH GOI WOULD PROBABLY BE HANDLED BY MILBANK TECHNICAL SERVICES, WHICH IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR CHIEFTAIN PROGRAM, AND IS ALSO ACTIVE AT BANDAR ABBAS WITH SHIP REPAIR AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR THE IIN'S BRITISH-BUILD VOSPERS.

5. IT SEEMS TO US QUITE LIKELY THAT IRANIANS HAVE DIVIDED UP THEIR CO-PRODUCTION INTERESTES BETWEEN SEVERAL COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY MAY HAVE DECIDED TO DISCUSS MUNITIONS, TANKS AND NAVAL VESSELS WITH BRITISH; WE UNDERSTAND BRITS HAVE ALSO OFFERED CO-PRODUCTION OF RAPIER.

6. WE WILL REPORT SEPARATELY INFORMATION WE CAN DEVELOP RE COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS MENTIONED PARA 3 REFTEL.  
HELMS

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## Message Attributes

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